



STUDY OF THE UNITED STATES INSTITUTES FOR SCHOLARS SUMMER 2009 PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

A. JOURNALISM AND MEDIA

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUP OF 18 JOURNALISM FACULTY AND OTHER RELATED SPECIALISTS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF JOURNALISM'S AND THE MEDIA'S ROLE IN U.S. SOCIETY. IT WILL EXAMINE MAJOR TOPICS IN JOURNALISM, INCLUDING THE CONCEPT OF A "FREE PRESS," FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS, AND THE MEDIA'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL QUESTIONS POSED BY JOURNALISM WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO EVERY ASPECT OF THE INSTITUTE. THE INSTITUTE WILL COVER STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING STUDENTS OF JOURNALISM THE BASICS OF THE TRADECRAFT: RESEARCHING, REPORTING, WRITING, AND EDITING. THE PROGRAM WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT TECHNOLOGY'S IMPACT ON JOURNALISM, ADDRESSING THE INFLUENCE OF THE INTERNET, THE GLOBALIZATION OF THE NEWS MEDIA, THE GROWTH OF SATELLITE TELEVISION AND RADIO NETWORKS, AND OTHER ADVANCES IN MEDIA THAT ARE TRANSFORMING THE PROFESSION.

B. RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE UNITED STATES

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUP OF UP TO 18 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND PRACTITIONERS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE, PAST AND PRESENT, THROUGH AN EXAMINATION OF RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND ITS INTERSECTION WITH AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

EMPLOYING A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH, DRAWING ON FIELDS SUCH AS HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE, SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, LAW AND OTHERS WHERE APPROPRIATE, THE PROGRAM WILL EXPLORE BOTH THE HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE IN THE UNITED STATES; EXAMINE THE WAYS IN WHICH RELIGIOUS THOUGHT AND PRACTICE HAVE INFLUENCED, AND BEEN INFLUENCED BY, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN-STYLE DEMOCRACY; EXAMINE THE INTERSECTIONS OF RELIGION AND POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES IN SUCH AREAS AS ELECTIONS, PUBLIC POLICY, AND FOREIGN POLICY; AND EXPLORE THE SOCIOLOGY AND DEMOGRAPHY OF RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY, INCLUDING A SURVEY OF THE DIVERSITY OF CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND ITS IMPACT ON AMERICAN POLITICS.

C. AMERICAN POLITICS AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUP OF 18 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY FACULTY WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND MAJOR CURRENTS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL THOUGHT. THE INSTITUTE WILL PROVIDE THE PARTICIPANTS INSIGHT INTO HOW INTELLECTUAL AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS HAVE INFLUENCED MODERN AMERICAN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. THE INSTITUTE WILL PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF POLITICAL THOUGHT DURING THE FOUNDING PERIOD (CONSTITUTIONAL FOUNDATIONS), AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT FUNCTIONING OF THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY, CONGRESS AND THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY. THE EXAMINATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS, THE CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM, MEDIA AND THINK TANKS, OR THE WELFARE/REGULATORY STATE. THE INSTITUTE WILL ADDRESS MODERN POLITICAL AND CULTURAL ISSUES IN THE UNITED STATES (INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CIVIL RIGHTS, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, IMMIGRATION, ETC.), AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PUBLIC DISCOURSE IN THE FORMULATION OF PUBLIC POLICY.

D. CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUPS OF UP TO 18 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND SCHOLARS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE, PAST AND PRESENT, THROUGH AN EXAMINATION OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN LITERATURE. ITS PURPOSE IS TWO FOLD: TO EXPLORE CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN WRITERS AND WRITING IN A VARIETY OF GENRES; AND TO SUGGEST HOW THE THEMES EXPLORED IN THOSE WORKS REFLECT LARGER CURRENTS WITHIN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE. THE PROGRAM WILL EXPLORE THE DIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAN LITERARY LANDSCAPE, EXAMINING HOW MAJOR CONTEMPORARY WRITERS, SCHOOLS AND MOVEMENTS REFLECT THE TRADITIONS OF THE AMERICAN LITERARY CANON.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE PROGRAM WILL EXPOSE PARTICIPANTS TO WRITERS WHO REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM THAT TRADITION, AND WHO ARE ESTABLISHING NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AMERICAN LITERATURE.

E. AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

HOST INSTITUTION: NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUP OF 18 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND SCHOLARS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. SOCIETY, CULTURE, VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS. THE PROGRAM EXAMINES SOME OF THE CRITICAL HISTORICAL EPOCHS, MOVEMENTS, ISSUES AND CONFLICTS THAT HAVE INFLUENCED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE U.S. NATION AND ITS PEOPLE AND INCLUDES A STRONG CONTEMPORARY COMPONENT, PARTICULARLY CURRENT POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND DEBATES. THE COMPLEXITY AND HETEROGENEOUS NATURE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY IS HIGHLIGHTED, AS WELL AS THE INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES THAT HAVE ENABLED THE NATION TO ACCOMMODATE THAT DIVERSITY.

F. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: THIS PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A MULTINATIONAL GROUP OF 18 FOREIGN UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND SCHOLARS WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS FORMULATED AND IMPLEMENTED WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD. THIS INSTITUTE WILL BEGIN WITH A REVIEW OF THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND COVER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, INDIVIDUALS, AND PHILOSOPHIES THAT HAVE DOMINATED U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. IN ADDITION, THE INSTITUTE WILL EXPLAIN THE ROLE OF KEY PLAYERS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY, INCLUDING THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, THE MEDIA, PUBLIC OPINION, THINK-TANKS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND HOW THESE PLAYERS DEBATE, COOPERATE, INFLUENCE POLICY, AND ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE. REGIONAL SESSIONS, FOR THE ENTIRE GROUP, HIGHLIGHTING SALIENT TOPICS SUCH AS ENERGY SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN EUROPE; TRADE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IN ASIA; FOREIGN AID AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN AFRICA; DRUG TRAFFICKING AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE; AND COMBATING TERRORISM IN THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA ARE AMONG THE RELEVANT ISSUES THAT MIGHT BE EXPLORED. IN ADDITION, SESSIONS FOCUSING ON CURRENT ISSUES SUCH NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, OR U.S. MILITARY ACTIONS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE.